

MARVEL

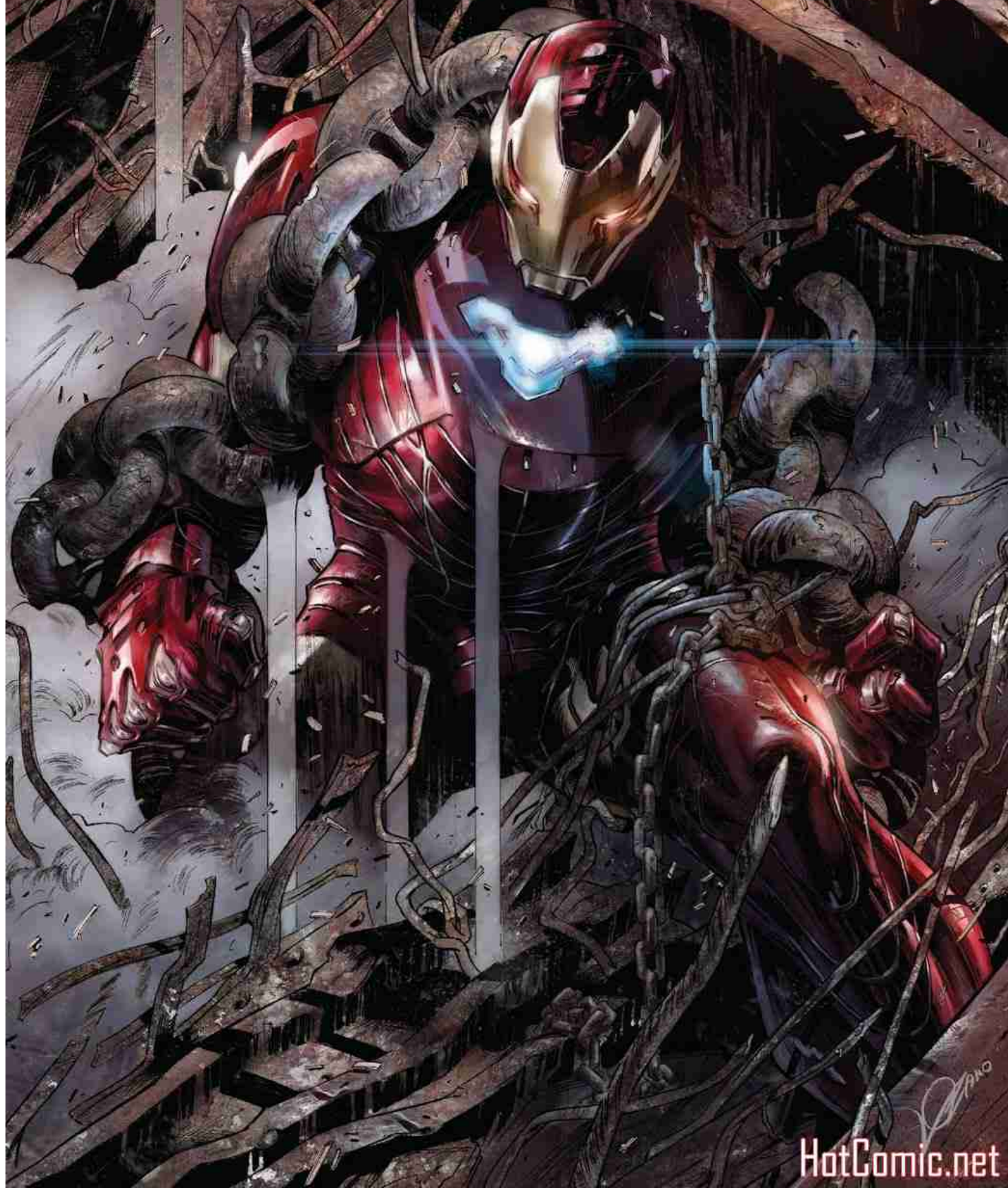
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LGY#602

DAN SLOTT • VALERIO SCHITI • EDGÀR DELGADO

TONY STARK

IRON MAN



Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger Iron Man.

TONY STARK **IRON MAN**

SELF-MADE MAN: PART TWO **"THE NOT-A-PILOT EPISODE"**

Stark Unlimited is in the business of inventing the future, and to accomplish that, Tony Stark is looking for people with imagination. His latest recruit is Andy Bhang, an engineer who will work closely with Tony's chief robotics ethicist, Jocasta.

But ideas need protecting, and though Tony can rely on his recently resurrected best friend, James Rhodes, to have his back, his head of security, Bethany Cabe, is secretly under the thrall of the villainous Controller. That can't end well...

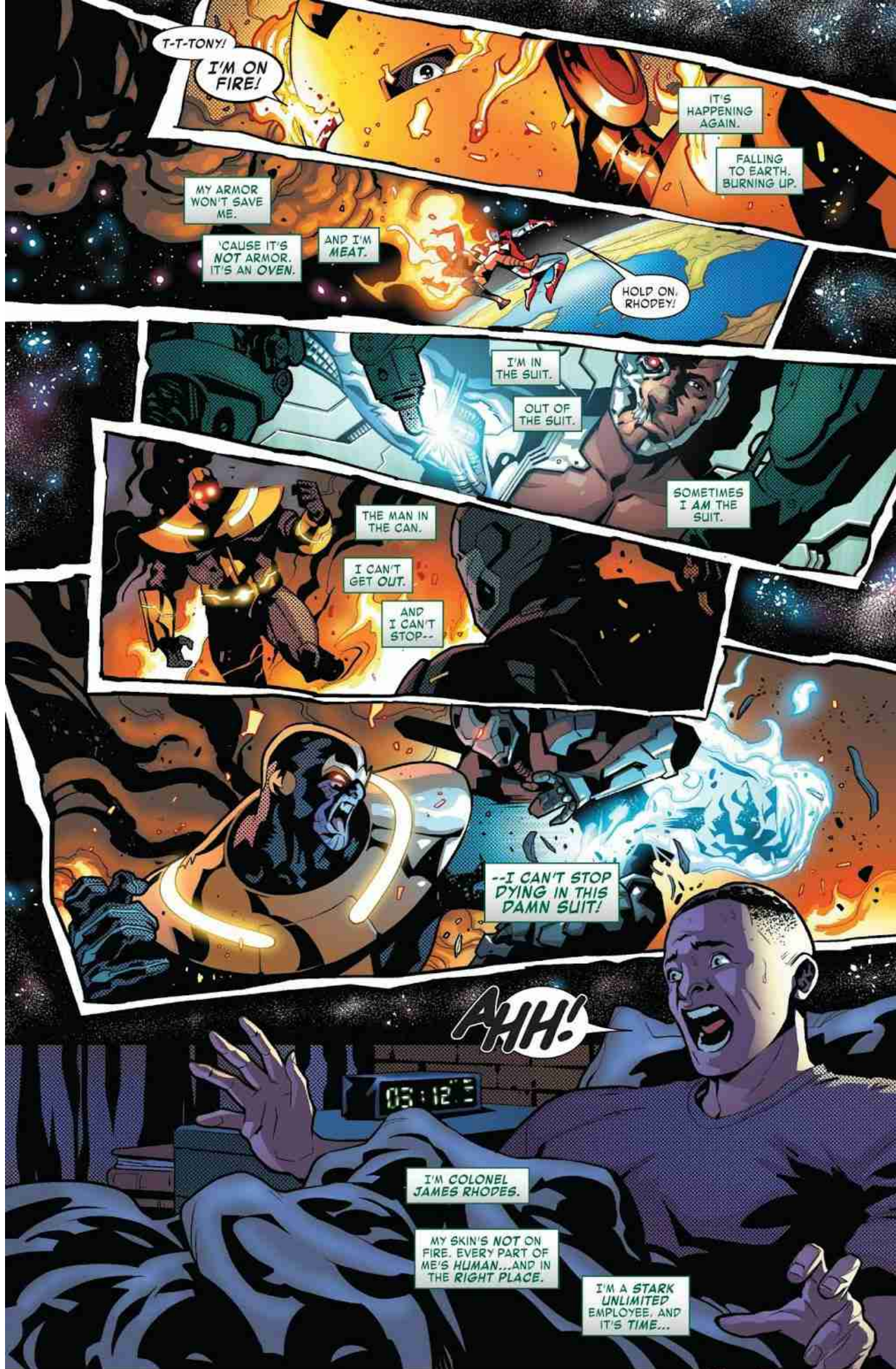
STARK 05

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Iron Man Created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber, Don Heck & Jack Kirby

HotComic.net



T-T-TONY!

I'M ON
FIRE!

IT'S
HAPPENING
AGAIN.

FALLING
TO EARTH.
BURNING UP.

MY ARMOR
WON'T SAVE
ME.

'CAUSE IT'S
NOT ARMOR.
IT'S AN OVEN.

AND I'M
MEAT.

HOLD ON,
RHOPEY!

I'M IN
THE SUIT.

OUT OF
THE SUIT.

SOMETIMES
I AM THE
SUIT.

THE MAN IN
THE CAN.

I CAN'T
GET OUT.

AND I CAN'T
STOP--

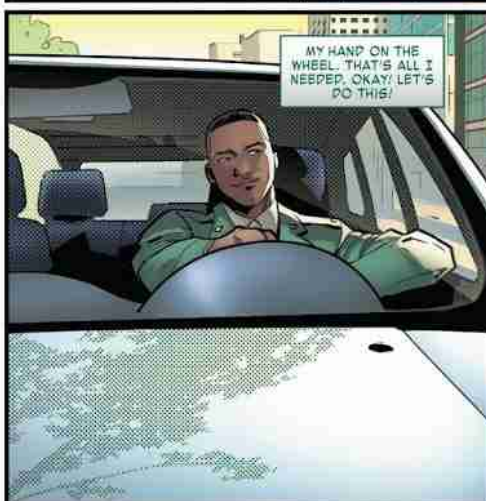
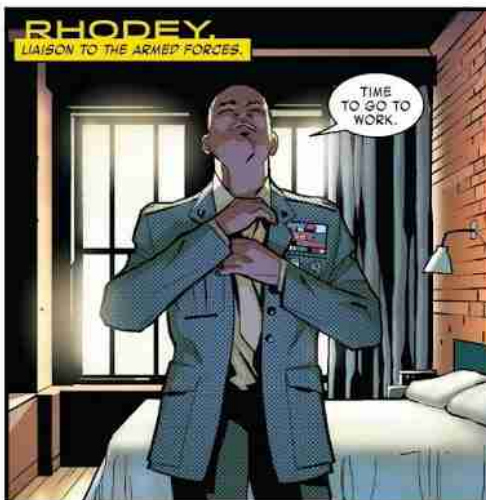
--I CAN'T STOP
DYING IN THIS
DAMN SUIT!

AHH!

I'M COLONEL
JAMES RHODES.

MY SKIN'S NOT ON
FIRE. EVERY PART OF
ME'S HUMAN...AND IN
THE RIGHT PLACE.

I'M A STARK
UNLIMITED
EMPLOYEE, AND
IT'S TIME...



TONY STARK.
IRON MAN.

WHAT KEPT YOU? I'VE BEEN UP FOR HOURS.

YOU'RE CUTTING INTO MY PLAYTIME.

I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING IN THE GYM.

RHOPEY, THE WORLD'S MY GYM.

YESTERDAY YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR PLAYGROUND.

I'M A STARK. THE WORLD'S MY EVERYTHING.

SINCE WHEN DID WE HAVE A CLIMBING WALL IN HERE?

SINCE FIVE MINUTES AGO. YOU WERE LATE AND I GOT BORED.

NOT BORED ENOUGH TO PUT IN SAFETY HARNESSSES.

SEE, THAT WOULD MAKE IT MORE BORING.

HEY! WE BOTH "DIED" NOT THAT LONG AGO.

SURE, YOU GENETICALLY RE-ENGINEERED OUR BODIES, WHICH IS GREAT AND ALL...

...BUT IT'S NOT A FREE PASS!



JAMES.
JAMES. JAMES.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF
A SECOND CHANCE IF
YOU DON'T TAKE
CHANCES?

TELL ME
THAT'S NOT HOW
YOU'RE TREATING
YOUR NEW
LIVER.

PLEASE.
THAT'S A
BATTLE I WILL
NEVER STOP
FIGHTING.

MAYBE IT'S
NOT ABOUT
DRINKING. YOU'VE
GOT AN ADDICTIVE
PERSONALITY.

BOOZE.
DRUGS. WHAT
ABOUT ADRENALINE?
THE RUSH YOU GET
FROM TAKING
RISKS?

YOU WENT
UP AGAINST FIN
FANG FOOM LAST
WEEK. ALONE. HE
ALMOST KILLED
YOU!



THAT'S
NOT FAIR.
IF MY SUIT HAD
A FUNCTIONING
A.I. IN IT,
I WOULDN'T
HAVE--

GNH!
ALWAYS GOT
AN EXCUSE,
DON'T YOU,
TONY?

MAYBE
NEXT TIME
I WON'T BE
THERE
TO--

TO
WHAT?



LITERALLY
CATCH ME WHEN
I FALL?

YOU'RE
JAMES
RHODES.

THAT'S
WHO YOU ARE.
IT'S WHAT
YOU DO.



SO IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT MY ARMOR NEEDS A BUILT-IN A.I. SYSTEM.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? JUST PROGRAM ONE IN.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. JOCASTA?

IT'S IMMORAL TO COOP UP AN A.I. IN A TECH SUIT. LIKE THEY'RE SOME...HELPLESS PASSENGER.

THAT'S WHY MY FIRST ACT AS ROBOTIC ETHICIST WAS TO GET FRIDAY REMOVED FROM THE IRON MAN ARMOR AND PLACED IN HER OWN BODY.

THE FOUNDRY.

S.U.'S ROBOTICS DIVISION.



HI. MY EARS WERE BURNING.

JUST WANTED TO REMIND EVERYBODY...



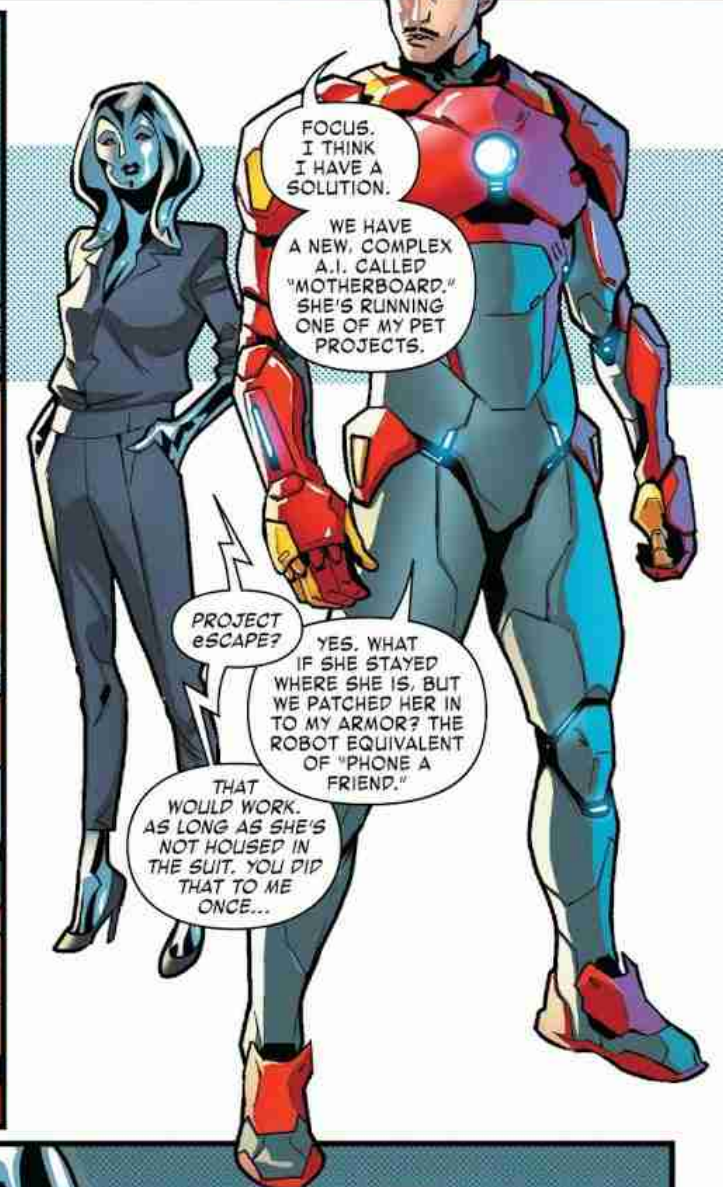
...AFTER WORK, IT'S KARAOKE NIGHT! OOH, WHO'S THE NEW GUY?

HI. YOU COMING?

ANDY BHANG, THIS IS FRIDAY STARK.

HI. UM... SURE.

THIS PLACE IS THE BEST.



FOCUS. I THINK I HAVE A SOLUTION.

WE HAVE A NEW, COMPLEX A.I. CALLED "MOTHERBOARD." SHE'S RUNNING ONE OF MY PET PROJECTS.

PROJECT ESCAPE?

YES, WHAT IF SHE STAYED WHERE SHE IS, BUT WE PATCHED HER IN TO MY ARMOR? THE ROBOT EQUIVALENT OF "PHONE A FRIEND."

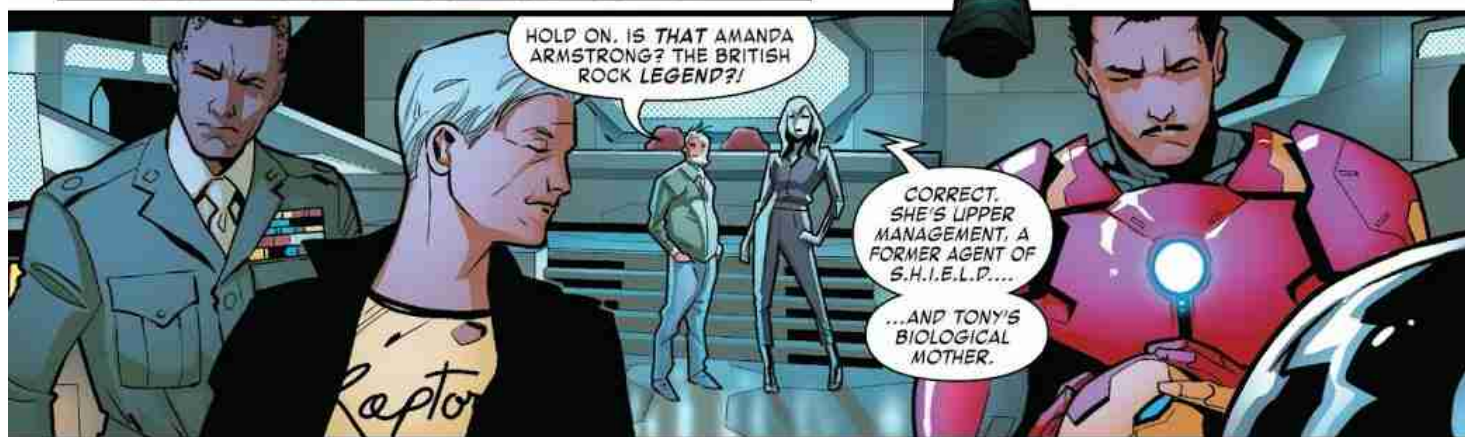
THAT WOULD WORK. AS LONG AS SHE'S NOT HOUSED IN THE SUIT. YOU DID THAT TO ME ONCE...

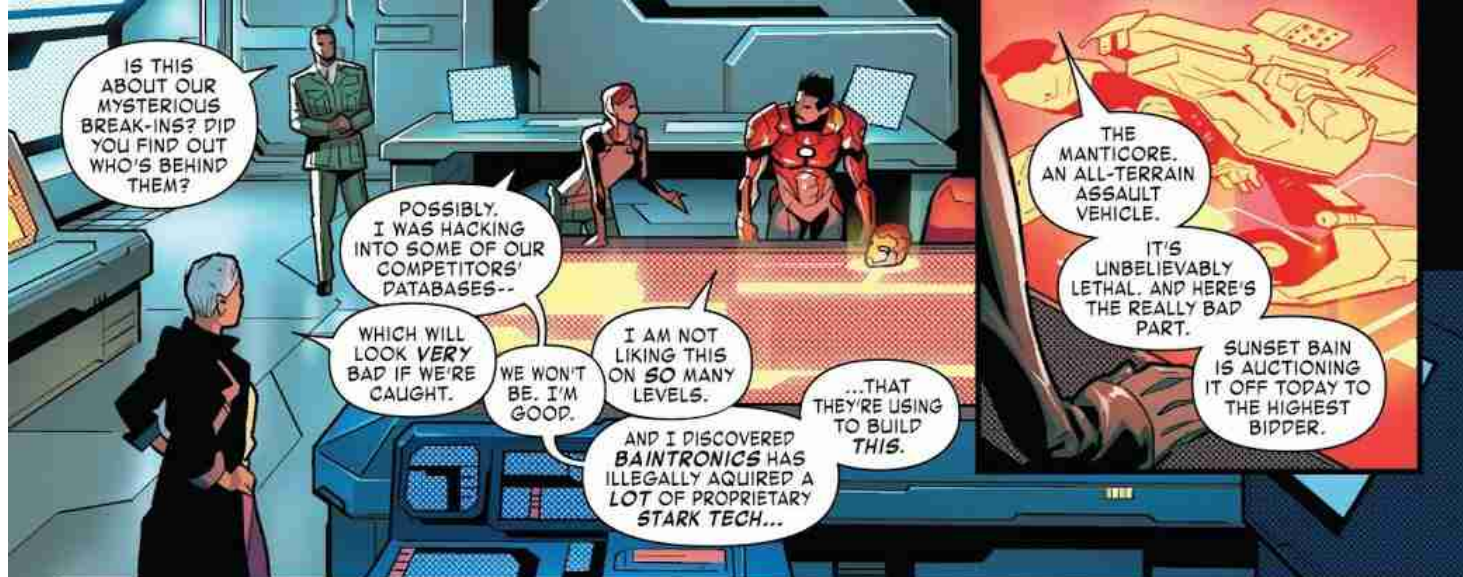


I...I DID NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.

YOU HUMANS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE. TO BE TRAPPED INSIDE THERE LIKE THAT.

YEAH. SOUNDS TERRIBLE.





BAINTRONICS TESTING RANGE.

UPSTATE NEW YORK.

HELICOPTERS.
TANKS. PERSONS
OF INTEREST.

TO TAKE
OUT SO MANY
DIFFERENT KINDS
OF TARGETS...

...WHY, THAT
WOULD REQUIRE
A WIDE RANGE OF
CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS OR ASSAULT
CRAFT.

NOT
ANYMORE!

THIS IS THE
MANTICORE.

IN ONE
MODE, IT
OWNS THE
SKY.

IN
ANOTHER, IT
DOMINATES
ON THE
GROUND!

BUT LET'S
SAY YOU'RE
NOT INTERESTED
IN BLOWING UP
HELICOPTERS
OR TANKS.

YOU WANT
PINPOINT
PRECISION.

IF ONE
OF YOU COULD
PLEASE PICK A
SOFT
TARGET?

THE
SMALLEST
ONE, MS.
BAIN.

THAT IS
SUPPOSED TO
BE A CHILD,
YES?



MANTICORE,
LOSE THE
KID.

ZREEE ZREEE



MICROWAVE
BEAM-RIFLES.

THEY
CAN COOK A
SPECIFIC TARGET
BOTH INSIDE
AND OUT.

SO I
GUESS YOU
COULD SAY THIS
IS A BAKE
SALE.

GENTLEMEN,
BAINTRONICS
GIVES YOU THE FUTURE
OF ARMED
VEHICLES.

THE
UNDISPUTED
MASTER OF LAND,
SEA AND AIR: THE

MANTICORE.





NOT JUST ME,
SUNSET. YOU'RE
GETTING SHUT DOWN
COURTESY OF IRON
MAN AND--

AND--

DUPE. I'M
TEENING YOU UP
HERE. WORK
WITH ME.

UM. SORRY, TONY.
S-SOMETHING
MUST BE WRONG
WITH MY COMMS.



THIS IS
MOTHERBOARD.
YOUR COMMS
APPEAR FINE,
COLONEL
RHODES.

THANKS
FOR
THAT.



AND YOU'RE
ALL OVER THE
PLACE.

SERIOUSLY,
YOU'RE MAKING ME
LOOK BAD IN FRONT
OF THE PRETTY-
BUT-EVIL LADY.

SWEET
TALKER.



ATTENTION
BAINTRONICS
SHOPPERS, YOU'RE
IN FOR A
BONUS.

YOU'RE
ABOUT TO SEE
OUR STORE MODEL
TAKE OUT ONE OF
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES.

FINE!
BRING
IT!

MANTICORE--
TARGET THE WAR
MACHINE!

ME?!



YOU HEARD HER, MEN. THE MANTICORE PILOT CAN TAKE COLONEL RHODES.

THE REST OF YOU, BACK ME UP. I HAVE STARK.

THE GAUNTLET! I REMEMBER YOU.

SO, WHAT, YOU'RE SUNSET'S "RIGHT HAND MAN"? I BET YOU GET THAT A LOT.



BRAKKA
PKOW

WOW! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THESE GUYS WILL PAY...

...AFTER THEY'VE SEEN ME TAKE OUT AN AVENGER?

TH-THAT'S NOT HAPPENING!



JOSEPH, RIGHT? MILITARY, PATRIOT, FAMILY MAN.

YOU WORKED WITH ME AND RHOPEY BACK AT CAMP HAMMOND, WHEN WE WERE ALL PART OF THE AVENGERS INITIATIVE.

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, JOE!

PYOWN



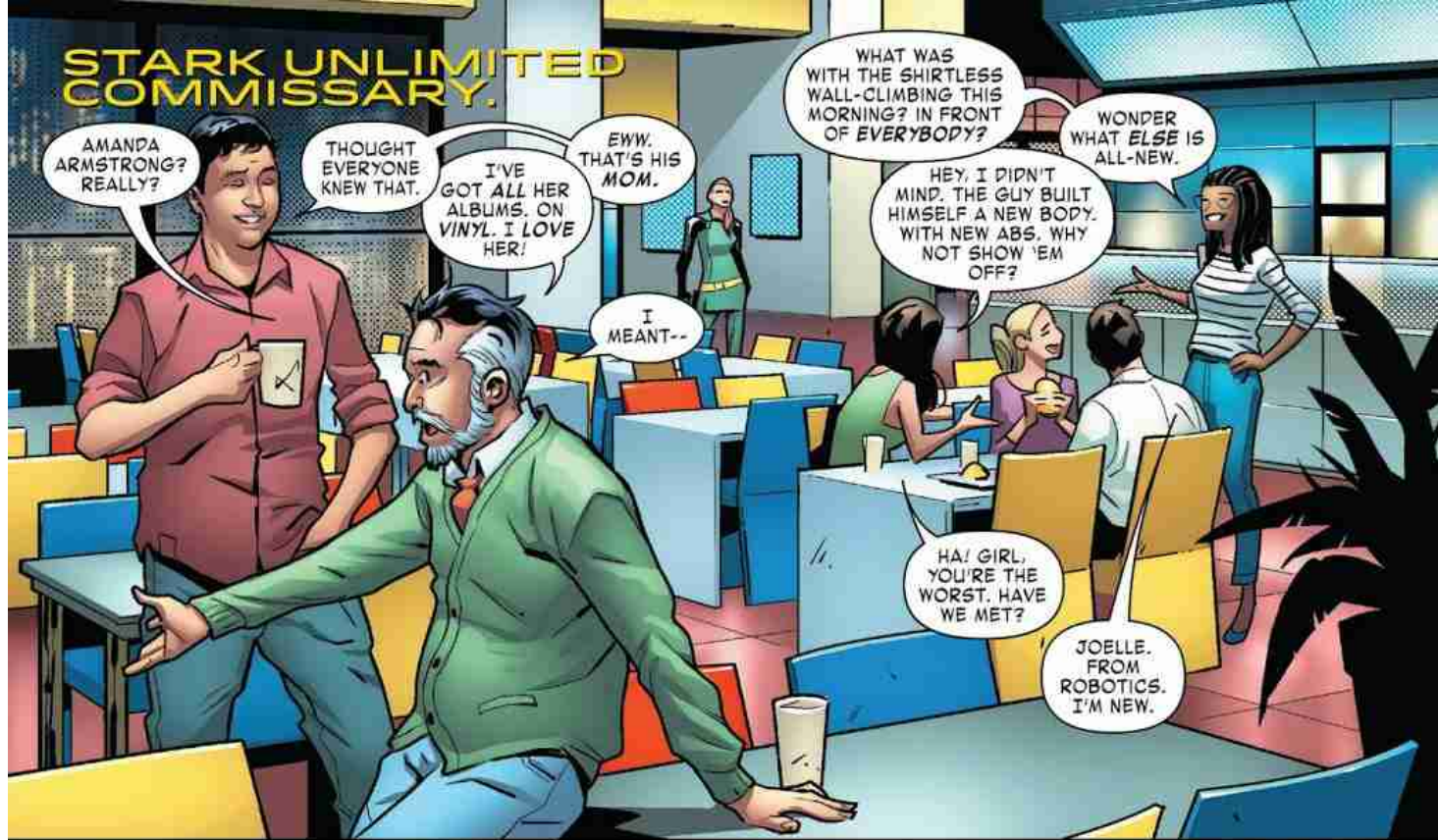
DO WHAT? EARN AN HONEST LIVING?

STOP SOMEONE IN AN ARMORED SUIT FROM BREAKING INTO MY PLACE OF WORK AND STEALING MY EMPLOYER'S PROPERTY?

SAVE ME THE LECTURE, STARK. I'M IN THE RIGHT HERE!

OW! WELL, SURE, WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT.

BY THE WAY, CAN WE WRAP THIS UP FAST? IT'S KARAOKE NIGHT.







YOU CAN STOP STRUGGLING, STARK. MY GAUNTLET IS DISRUPTING YOUR POWER FLOW. YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

YEAH, I'M GONNA PASS ON THAT. STRUGGLING USUALLY WORKS FOR ME.

YOUR SUIT'S POWER LEVELS ARE DROPPING, ANTHONY. YOUR ADVERSARY IS CORRECT.

RHOPEY? FINISH THAT THING OFF ALREADY AND GIVE ME A HAND...

TONY... I CAN'T...



**F
W
H
O
M**

AGH! NOT AGAIN!
OH GOD! EJECT! DO YOU HEAR ME?! EJECT!

COMPLYING. BUT JAMES, YOUR SUIT IS STILL FULLY FUNCTIONING. WHY--?

UHH.



HUH. HUHH. I CAN BREATHE.

ALIVE AND BREATHING.

YEAH? WELL, NOT FOR LONG, PAL!





FINE!
MAKE ME DO
EVERYTHING!



I
CAN DO
THIS.

MY
HAND'S
ON THE
WHEEL.

EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE
OKAY.



SO...THESE
ARE EITHER
THE BRAKES
OR DEATH
RAYS.



LET'S
FIND
OUT.



GNHH!
MY FAULT.
TYPICAL
ME.

TOO BUSY
THINKING
ABOUT
MYSELF.

SHOULD'VE
PAID MORE
ATTENTION...

...TO
WHAT YOU
WERE GOING
THROUGH.



"...SO MUCH FOR KARAOKE."

YOU'RE HOME EARLY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE "HANGING OUT" WITH YOUR HUMANS TONIGHT.

I CHANGED MY MIND.

JOCASTA?

I HAD A BAD DAY AT WORK. I DO NOT WISH TO TALK ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE AVOIDING CONTRACTIONS. THAT'S YOUR "BRIDE OF ULTRON" VOICE. WHAT HAPPENED?



I...I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF, AARON.

THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T WANT TO STAND OUT. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

FIT IN.

BELONG.



WITH THE FLESHBAGS?

I'VE DECIDED. I AM GOING TO ASK STARK IF I CAN TAKE PART...

...IN PROJECT ESCAPE.

NO! YOU TOLD ME WHAT IT'S FOR--WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN FOR OUR KIND!



YOU'LL DO THAT OVER MY DEAD ARTIFICIAL BODY!

AARON STACK, MACHINE MAN.

YOUR ROBOT LOVER. (BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE A ROBOT. AND JOCASTA.)



NEXT_

TONY STARK IRON MAN

#3



Tony Stark unveils his latest innovation, a virtual reality wonderland called the Great eEscape, but not everyone is happy about it. In fact, Aaron Stack, A.K.A. MACHINE MAN, is downright furious about it!

Can you, dear reader, survive a dangerous and delightful beta test of the eEscape? Come back next month to find out!

YOU ARE ALL IRON MAN! Sock it to Shell-Head at mheroes@marvel.com and mark emails "okay to print" if you'd like to see them answered in future issues!

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